

Potter Mansion
Northwest of Route 201, .4 miles
north of Route 202
Milford Vicinity
Cedar Creek Hundred
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-235

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Delaware	COUNTY Sussex County	TOWN OR VICINITY Milford Vicinity Cedar Creek Hundred
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Potter Mansion - (documented original owner of house)		HABS NO. DE-235
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Northwest of Route 201, .4 miles north of Route 202		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Ca. 1780 - construction	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Potter Mansion is an excellent example of a well finished hall-plan house of the latter half of the 18th century. The client for the house, Benjamin Potter, was a wealthy landholder and tanner living in Cedar Creek Hundred in the late 18th/early 19th centuries.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Principle post braced frame with corner up braces, nogged walls, common rafter (no collar) roof: brick sill/foundation		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Original block 18 by 20 feet - additions (early 19th cen.) at both gable ends destroyed. Single ground floor room; unfinished loft with later 19th cen. dormer windows.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Resided with cedar shingle in the first half of the 19th cen. Vertical board and batten doors with applied stiles and rails; box cornice with ogee bed moulding; interior gable end chimney; later dormer windows; evidence for wings at each gable end.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Full paneled hearth wall with paneling composed of vertical boards covered with false rails and stiles; a four door cupboard with grooved (for display) shelving stood to the right of the fireplace; a four-panel door to the left opens into a winding stair; a smaller door opens to a closet under		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES the stair; walls are plaster over brick nogging. Ca. 1820 two-story gable roof wing on the gable end opposite the original hearth wall; covered with cedar shingle and finished with paneled first floor hearth wall: mid 19th century wing to opposite gable end of original house one-story frame; destroyed early 20th.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Abandoned; ruinous. The two-story wing is now totally collapsed. The roof of the original house has broken through in several places and is allowing extensive weathering of the interior.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, De. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard Herman, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware		DATE 8-19-85